



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS: LOW-COST PASSENGERS TOP 2 MILLION

*County Executive Hails Lower Fares, Increased Competition;
Offers Bi-Partisan Thanks*

Hailing the results of community collaboration, civic pride and bi-partisan teamwork, County Executive Maggie Brooks announced today that total passengers utilizing low-cost air carriers AirTran and JetBlue at the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA) recently topped the two million mark.

The County Executive made this announcement in front of the Central Security Checkpoint, where she was joined this morning by federal officials, Airport Authority leaders, as well as AirTran and JetBlue representatives in celebrating the Airport's great success.

"All of us, our leaders in government...in business...in civic advocacy...as well as the tens of thousands of working families encompassing Monroe County...all of us have long spoken of the difference a successful, low-cost carrier would bring to the Greater Rochester International Airport," **County Executive Brooks** stated. *"The addition of AirTran and JetBlue has generated success beyond our wildest dreams."*

Total passengers utilizing carriers AirTran and JetBlue topped 2,000,000 during August, 2006, according to statistics provided by GRIA. In addition, the same statistics show that over 21,000 combined AirTran and JetBlue flights have taken off and landed at the Greater Rochester International Airport since August, 2000.

AirTran began its service in March of 2002, while JetBlue began service to the Greater Rochester International Airport in August of 2000. According to GRIA statistics, over one-third (34.2%) of all GRIA enplanements now take place on these two airlines (AirTran – 19.3%; JetBlue – 14.9%).

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In addition, the County Executive noted that the addition of these carriers has cut the average fare by approximately 35%, contributing to the record 2.9 million passengers utilizing GRIA during 2005.

“Our airport has now set a record for passengers...over 2.9 million utilized the Greater Rochester International Airport in 2005 alone...and it’s clear that addition of these two airlines have played a large role in this fact,” **Brooks** continued. *“As costs have declined, our community’s passengers no longer need to make the trek to Buffalo or even Toronto to locate affordable air service to serve their needs.”*

JetBlue Airways initially entered the Rochester market by offering three, non-stop flights daily between New York and Rochester. Today, that number has nearly doubled, with the airline now offering five daily flights between the two cities.

AirTran Airways initially entered the Rochester market by offering two, non-stop flights daily between Atlanta and Rochester, as well as three, non-stop flights daily between Baltimore-Washington and Rochester. Due to their success, AirTran has expanded their service, and now offers three daily non-stops between Atlanta and Rochester, three daily non-stops between Baltimore-Washington and Rochester, two daily non-stops between Boston and Rochester, one daily non-stop between Orlando and Rochester (two in the winter), one daily non-stop between Tampa and Rochester, and a daily non-stop between Fort Lauderdale and Rochester during the winter months.

Finally, Brooks took the time to thank Senator Schumer, Congresswoman Slaughter, Congressman Reynolds, Governor Pataki and other federal, statewide and local officials who played a role in luring AirTran and JetBlue to GRIA. The County Executive praised their commitment to promoting low-cost airfares, and increased competition at our airport.

“Their support for our great airport cuts across party lines, and in all cases, these leaders...and my partners in government...have genuinely worked in a bi-partisan fashion for the benefit of our community’s air passengers,” **Brooks** continued.

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